

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161578

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO GUATEMALA, MANAGUA,
SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, USUN, AUGUST 4, FROM SAN JOSE RPTD
YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS0 UN, CU, CS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MWNISTER COMMENTS ON OAS

RESTRUCTURING, CUBA AND GOCR

BID FOR SC SEAT.

1. DURING LONG CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO HE MADE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS RE OAS RESTRUCTURING, CUBA QUESTION
AND SC SEATING.

2. OAS RESTRUCTURING. FACIO SAID AMBASSADOR
LOPEZ WOULD HEAD COSTA RICAN DELEGATION IN
SEPTEMBER SESSION ON OAS RESTRUCTURING. FACIO
SAID THAT COSTA RICA OPPOSED ANY SUBSTATANTIAL
WEAKENING OF RIO TREATY OR COLLECTIVE SECURITY/
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES SYSTEM, BECAUSE
AS LITTLE COUNTRY WITHOUT ANY ARMY IT DEPENDED
UPON THE TREATY FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL SECURITY;
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FOR THAT REASON HE WAS CONCERNED WITH MEXICAN

PROPOSAL AND SPECIFICALLY WITH PROVISION THEREIN REQUIRING UN CONSULTATION, WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD IN EFFECT GUT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. FACIO WENT ON TO SAY HE FAVORED RESTORING THE OAS COUNCIL TO PRIME POSITION WITH CIES AND CIEC BEING TECHNICAL BODIES RATHER THAN COEQUAL COUNCILS. HE SAID THAT COSTA RICA OBVIOUSLY SUPPORTED DEMOCRACY BUT THOUGHT THAT SOME AMENDMENT WAS NECESSARY OF THE CHARTER'S WORDING CALLING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS AND REASON FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S EXISTENCE, SINCE THIS WAS NOT NOW FACTUALLY CORRECT AND VITIATED THE IDEA OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM. FINALLY HE SAID THAT HE OPPOSED THE IDEA OF USING THE SYSTEM TO CONFRONT THE US OR TO FORCE CONCESSION FROM IT. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NOT RPT NO UTILITY IN PRESING THE CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC AGRESSION (ART. 16) TO TRY TO PUNISH THE US. IN REPLY I SAID THAT WE FELT TWO IMPORTANT POINTS WERE THAT THE RIO TREATY AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM NOT BE WEAKEND OR MARKOTOY CHANGED, AND THAT NO CONFRONTATION DEVELOP AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS TO FORCE AN ECONOMIC AGGRESSION DEFINITION ON US THAT WOULD TRY TO PUNISH US FOR DEFENDING LEGITIMATE US INTERESTS. I SAID THAT FROM WHAT I KNEW OF OUR DEVELOPING POSITIONS WE WERE VERY MUCH IN AGREEMENT, AND I SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR LOPEZ KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR JOVA. COMMENT: I HAD HAD EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR LOPEZ IN WHICH I SUGGESTED SAME THING. I BELIEVE THAT ON THESE ISSUES LOPEZ (AND FACIO) WILL BE HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE OF GENERAL US VIEW, AND THEREFORE URGE THAT USOAS KEEP CLOSE CONTACT WITH LOPEZ.

2. CUBA. FACIO SAID THAT THE EROSION IN OAS AUTHORITY OCCASIONED BY THE CUBAN
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QUESTION WORRIED HIM. THE MORE COUNTRIES ACTED UNILATERALLY TO RENEW RELATION WITH CUBA, IN VIOLATION OF THE OAS RESOLUTIONS, THE MORE THELMORAL FORCE OF AN RESPECT FOR THE OAS WAS DEGRADED. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE TREATED OPENLY AND NOT BY BACK DOOR MANEUVERS. HE GAVE ME A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM HE HAD PREPARED

WHICH HE SAID HE HAS HELD VERY CLOSE
AND GIVEN ONLY TO ONE OR TWO OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS. IT POSES A "JURIDICAL" FORMULA FOR
DEALING WITH THE QUESTION ALONG THE FOLLOWING
LINES: SUMMON A MEETING OF THE ORGAN OF
CONSULTATION TO DETERMINE IF THE CONDITIONS
GIVING RISE TO THE SANCTIONS VOTED BY THE
NINTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION STILL
EXIST, I.E., CUBAN SUBVERSION. IF THEY DO
NOT THEN THE SANCTIONS ARE ILLEGAL AND IT
WOULD TAKE A TWO-THIRD VOTE TO MAINTAIN
THEM. HE ALSO MAINTAINS THAT THE DELEGATION
BY THE NINTH MEETING TO TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
OF COMPETENCE TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS IS
ILLEGAL. FACIO EMPHASIZED TWICE THAT COSTA
RICA WOULD NOT TAKE ANY INITIATIVE TO BROACH
THE CUBAN QUESTION. THE MEMO MERELY OUTLINES
IDEAS. HOWEVER, IF THE QUESTION IS RAISED
BY OTHERS, THE IDEAS EXPRESSED IN THIS MEMO
WILL BE VOICED BY THE CR DELEGATE. I
REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY
CHANGE IN THE SANCTIONS WAS WARRANTED, AND
THAT RAISING THE ISSUE BY THE OAS
WOULD RAISE A SERIOUSLY DEVISIVE ISSUE.
HE ASKED THAT WE TALK FURTHER AFTER I HAD
READ THE MEMO. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD
APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS ON MEMO AND
SUGGESTIONS FOR REPLY TO FACIO. (COPY OF
THE MEMO I RECEIVED TODAY HAD BEEN RECEIVED
BY EMBASSY EARLIER THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS,
AND WAS POUCHED UNDER COPY OF JUNE 28
LETTER TO DAVID LAZAR, AR/CEN.)

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3. SC SEAT. FACIO SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE
ME "STATUS REPORT" ON COSTA RICA'S BID
FOR SC SEAT (SAN JOSE 2772 NOTAL). ONLY OTHER
CANDIDATE FOR LA SEAT IS JAMAICA. ACCORDING
TO HIS COUNT MEXICO, PERU, TRINIDAD,
BARBADOS AND GUYANA SUPPORT JAMAICA.
VENEZUELA IS UNDECIDED. ALL OTHERS ARE
COMMITTED TO COSTA RICA. HE HAS NO DOUBT
THAT COSTA RICA WILL WIN LA CAUCUS DESIGNA-
TION, BUT HE IS WORRIED OVER SMALL POSSIBILITY
THAT ARABS AND SOME AFRICANS WILL TRY TO
PERSUADE JAMAICA TO RUN ANYWAY. HE HAS
SOME INFORMATION THAT ARABS MET ON THIS
POINT, AND NOTED THAT ARABS DO NOT LIKE
COSTA RICA BECAUSE OF ITS FRIENDLINESS

TOWARDS ISRAEL. VAKY UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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